

**Claims**

1. A hand-held electronic security apparatus adapted to obtain identifying information of an individual, the apparatus comprising:

5 a casing;  
a computer disposed within the casing; and  
a storage medium communicating with the computer, the storage medium including a database of identifying information of at least one individuals, wherein the computer compares the identifying information of the individual with the identifying  
10 information stored in the storage medium.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identifying information includes at least one of the image of an individual.

15 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a camera coupled to the computer and adapted to obtain an image of the individual.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a display coupled to the computer and adapted to display the image.  
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5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is adapted to communicate with a remote location to at least one of transmit and receive identifying information.

25 6. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the computer includes image recognition software for use in comparing the image of the individual to a database of stored images.

7. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the image is at least one of a  
30 facial image, a hand image, a fingerprint image and an eye image.

8. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the camera is constructed and arranged to reduce a likelihood of being detected.